

Remarks

The amendments to the claims

Examiner will immediately see that the claims as amended are fully supported by the Specification as filed. The amendments to the claims other than claim 1, the only independent claim, serve to bring the dependent claims into conformity with the changes made to the language of claim 1 to more clearly distinguish claim elements that belong to the table in the user interface from claim elements that belong to the records. It should be noted at this point that the language "a window in the graphical user interface" of the amended claim serves to better relate the window to the remainder of the claim.

Support for Applicant's *Argument* in claim 1

The body of claim 1 as amended now sets forth that the "system" to which the graphical user interface belongs "executes a query that is associated with the action and returns a record that belongs to the set" (amended claim 1, lines 17 and 18) and further that "the value in the record field in the returned record that is identified by the entry's first field [is modified] as specified in the one or more action fields of the entry when the system executes [the] query" (lines 18-20 of claim 1). The body of the claim thus now sets forth a structure or process for "performing a query" and also requires "an automatic performance of some action upon a query returning a record" (both at page 8 of Examiner's Office final Office action of 4/17/06).

Since that is the case, claim 1 as amended now fully supports Applicant's argument for the patentability of his claims at page 7 of Applicant's response of 2/6/06, namely,

Patentability of claim 1

Because Hirsch and Crater neither disclose singly nor in combination claim 1's action that is associated with a query, that modifies a value of a field of a record, and that is automatically performed when the query returns the record, they cannot either singly or in combination disclose a graphical user interface for specifying such an action. Since the combined references do not disclose all of the elements of claim 1, Examiner has not made his *prima facie* case of obviousness and his rejection of claim 1 is without basis. Claim 1 is the only independent claim in the application; consequently, if claim 1 is patentable, so are all of the other claims in the application.

Patentability of the dependent claims in their own rights over the references

Beginning with claims 2 and 3, these claims further specify the types of the identified field's values and the effect of the types on the interface. Since there is nothing corresponding to claim 1's field of a record that may be returned by a query in Hirsch or Crater, claims 2 and 3 are patentable in their own rights over Hirsch and Crater separately or in combination. Claims 4-19 all have to do with the actions that may be specified in the action fields of the interface. These actions are of course performed on the identified fields, and since there is nothing in Hirsch or Crater about actions that are automatically performed on a field of a record when the record is returned by a query, the claims 4-19 are also patentable in their own rights over Hirsch and Crater separately or in combination.

35 U.S.C 101 and claim 1 as amended

Current examining practice with regard to 35 U.S.C. 101 is guided by the *Interim Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications for Patent Subject Matter Eligibility*, which became effective in November, 2005. According to those guidelines, a claim is addressed to statutory subject matter if the claimed invention "physically transforms an article or physical object to a different state or thing, or if the claimed invention otherwise produces a useful, concrete and tangible result". When claim 1 as amended is analyzed from this point of view, it is immediately clear that it is addressed to statutory subject matter:

1. The purpose of the graphical user interface is to set up the system that the graphical user interface belongs to automatically modify a value in a field of a record when the record is returned by a query. The invention as claimed thus results in the physical transformation of the value of the record's field. The value is of course contained in a "record stored in a memory device", and is thus a "physical object".
2. The system in which Applicant's invention is employed is a system that is used commercially to track processes; the claimed invention thus clearly produces a useful result; further, because it sets up the system to automatically modify a value in a field of a record when the record is returned by a query, the result of the application is equally clearly "concrete and tangible".

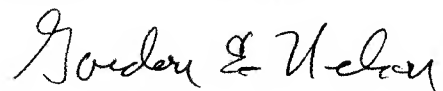
The invention of amended claim 1 is thus addressed to patentable subject matter under either of the criteria set forth in the *Interim Guidelines*.

Conclusion

The claims as amended more clearly set forth Applicant's invention and better support the arguments made by Applicant for the patentability of their claims. Applicant's attorney
5 does not believe that the amendments substantially affect the scope of the claims, and consequently does not believe that any further search should be necessary.

Applicant respectfully requests that Examiner enter the amended claims as provided by 37 C.F.R. 1.116, either because they put the rejected claims in better form for
10 consideration on appeal as set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.116(b)(2) or because the primary motivation for the amendment was Examiner's remark in his final rejection that the claims did not support Applicants' arguments, which can be taken to be a "requirement of form expressly set forth in a previous Office action" as set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.116(b)(1), or because the amendment could not be presented until Examiner made his formal
15 problems with the claims known in his final rejection and in the interview, as set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.116(b)(3). Since no further search should be required and Applicants' *Argument* as now supported by the amended claims demonstrates the patentability of the amended claims over the Hirsch and Crater references, Applicant further respectfully requests that Examiner allow the claims as amended. No fees should be required for this
20 amendment. Should any be, please charge them to deposit account #501315.

Respectfully submitted,



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